

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

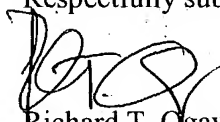
--This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/113,002, filed March 28, 2002, entitled SWINGING OBJECTIVE RETARDING IMMERSION LENS ELECTRON OPTICS FOCUSING, DEFLECTION AND SIGNAL COLLECTION SYSTEM AND METHOD, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/513,306, filed February 25, 2000, entitled SWINGING OBJECTIVE RETARDING IMMERSION LENS ELECTRON OPTICS FOCUSING, DEFLECTION AND SIGNAL COLLECTION SYSTEM AND METHOD, commonly assigned and hereby incorporated by references for all purposes.--

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


Richard T. Ogawa
Reg. No. 37,692

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400
Fax: 415-576-0300
RTO:dhe
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